ate authorities for extending these benefits to the ICAR Scientists.

(c) 89 Scientists of ICAR have retired since July, 1998 when the Govt, notification in respect of UGC Teachers was issued.

(d) While the Govt, of India has enhanced the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years in respect of Central Govt, employees recently, the ICAR Scientists have already been enjoying the benefits of retirement at 60 years of age. Decision of the Govt, of India for further enhancement of age of retirement from 60 to 62 years in respect of ICAR Scientists will thus have prospective effect & there is no justification for freezing the age retirement of the Scientists.

(e) As it is a major policy decision, it is not possible to fix any time limit.

Decline in Area under Wheat and Rice Cultivation

942. Dr. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under cultivation of paddy and wheat is not increasing in the country;

(b) what are the details of paddy and wheat production and area of cultivation in different States; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to increase the area of cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is generally an increasing trend in area under cultivation of paddy and wheat in the country. The state-wise details of area and production of rice and wheat during last three years are given in the enclosed statement. (see *below).*

(c) In order to increase production and productivity of paddy and wheat, the Government is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat Based Cropping systems Areas in different states under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next ten years, adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources. In addition, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of paddy/wheat and undertakes market support operations.

Statement

A-Area Million Hert

P-Production Million Tonnes

	Rice						Wheat					
	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
States	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
Andhra Pradesh	3.7	9.0	4.1	10.7	3.5	8.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	2.5	3.4	2.5	3.3	2.5	3.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bihar	5.0	6.6	5.1	7.3	5.0	6.8	2.1	4.2	2.1	4.6	2.1	4.2
Gujarat	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.6
Haryana*	0.3	1.8	0.8	2.5	0.9	2.5	2.0	7.3	2.0	7.8	2.1	7.6
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Jammu & Kashmir	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4
Karnataka	1.3	3.0	1.4	3.2	1.4	3.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Kerala	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.4	4.5	4.0	6.7	4.3	7.8	4.5	7.3
Maharashtra	1.5	2.6	1.5	2.6	1.5	2.4	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.7
Orissa	4.5	6.2	4.5	4.4	4.5	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	2.2	6.8	2.2	7.3	2.3	7.9	3.2	12.5	3.2	13.7	3.3	12.7
Rajasthan	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.2	5.5	2.5	6.8	2.7	6.7
Tamil Nadu	1.2	5.3	2.2	5.8	2.4	7.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	5.6	10.4	5.5	11.8	5.7	12.2	8.9	-21.8	9.0	24.0	9.2	23.0
West Bengal	6.0	11.9	5.8	12.6	5.9	13.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8
ALL INDIA	42.8	77.0	43.4	81.7	43.4	82.3	25.0	62.1	25.9	69.4	26.7	65.9